

SDC Board meeting June 19th 2024, Farr Hall 09:15-10:15

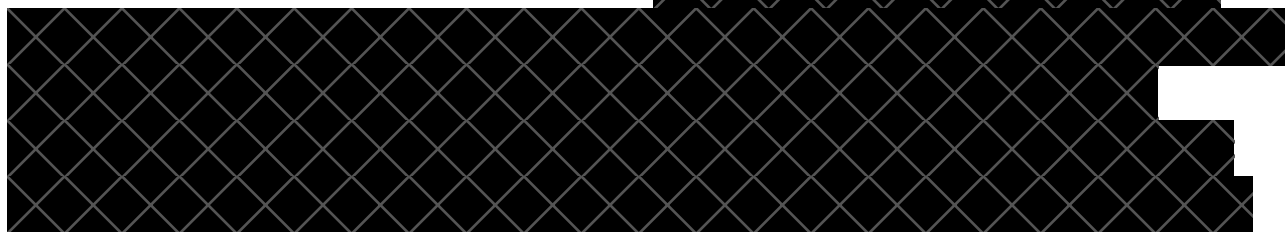
Present: Mike Danson, Paul Robinson, Elna Harvey, Megan Bee, Justyna Szczachor, Neil Dawson

Apologies from Raghnaid Sandilands, Aileen Taylor, Guy Harris, Hal Robinson.

Minutes from last meeting approved.

Hub steering group update: The group have been working towards greater understanding of community preferences for a hub, and to then engage consultant architects to provide brief feasibility/consultation with key stakeholders and then provide potential design options for the community to discuss. Megan has had discussions with three companies and costs for these 2 stages are reasonable at around £6k.

The expected costs for phase 4 of the Farr Hall improvements have suddenly jumped from c.£100k to c.£350k and this has only recently been communicated to the steering group. This potentially affects the hub plans, future possibilities as phase 4 will satisfy relatively few of the community aspirations yet could take up a considerable amount of available community funds. Megan and Neil have been trying to engage in open conversations about this balance, and also how Daviot community spaces fit into hub plans, but there has been a sudden lack of transparency and communication around the issue.



Only Farr Hall representatives appear to be responding in any way to these questions, generally voicing opinion that phase 4 will constitute a hub. SDC representatives on the steering group feel there is a substantial gap between the community aspirations voiced for a hub and what phase 4 will deliver (The

three main elements to phase 4 comprise: an extended front room (where community café takes place 1 morning per week; toilet improvements and; a storage space at the back of the hall).

Action point: ND to send reminder to chairs and groups to work out accuracy of phase 4 figure, what people's longer term thinking is and if we can have a meeting.

Community Website and continuing SDC website: To continue to qualify for IT charity discounts, Techsoup requires SDC to maintain own website on which SDC can demonstrate its independence. Discounts include free email server, free data storage, free video conferencing, free MS Office. Grants for IT hardware are also available. So SDC will need a separate website linked to the central one when it is ready, as it will save the community c.£1000 per year. SDC have to pay at most £100 per year for all those subscriptions. Great value for money. The linkage will be as per SNCC questionnaire August 2023 although it is not clear who is now responsible.

Funding applications: to be sent to the benefit fund today (19th June) re running costs and next year's costs for replacement CDO.

Running costs application: a couple of figures have slight queries to iron out but can be quickly confirmed.

CDO: application to be submitted. Pension costs to be worked out and amended in the proposal. Phone costs being verified. There has been some suggestion by SCBF and CC that they think funding should pause, but this is entirely against SDC's assessment of how successful the previous CDO employment was and without any communication with SDC. The previous application that SCBF approved was for a three year post, so annual renewal should be granted.

3 people who have expressed interest in the job, with different skills – fundraising, sustainability. Can include desirable skills such as experience in sustainable travel etc.

External funding possibilities: Paths for All fund open until next March – money used up once. About £6k has been quoted for paths across and around field at Farr. Farr Hall Committee have expressed a wish to work with SDC to gain funding and implement.

Cycle paths along the strath? Local place plan a good forum for working out what's needed, figuring out what landowners to work with.

Local Place Plan: HC reminders sent out that their preference is for completion by September 2024 deadline, but no serious ramifications of submitting later.

Perhaps not single big meeting for local place plan as power dynamics affect outputs, ability of people to express their values and perspectives, but smaller focus groups of well defined demographics could work well.

Action point: MD to share online materials, protocols for doing place plans. Consultant may be brought in to help. External funding is available for them. But capacity to write proposal and manage process is compromised without a CDO.

Work plan: Now Jessica has gone we need to see who is able to lead certain strands of work.

Farr Gala - next year we will have subcommittee operating from January. Realise there were reasons it didn't happen to that timeline this year, but it should in future.